

Message Text

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TO USCINCEUR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 109917

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOL REPEAT ASMARA 358 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA
KHARTOUM LONDON MOGADISCIO NAIROBI CAIRO BEIRUT JIDDA FRANKFURT
5 MAY.

QUOTE

E C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 358

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY AND USCINCEUR
NAIROBI FOR SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF CISCO II AND SECURITY OF AMERICANS IN ASMARA

1. THE CONGEN IS OBVIOUSLY DEEPLY GRATIFIED BY THE RELEASE OF
CAMPBELL
AND HARRELL AFTER THEIR LONG AND HARROWING DETENTION, AND WE WISH THEM
A SPEEDY RETURN TO THEIR HOMES AND FAMILY. LIKEWISE WE MOST SINCERELY
COMMEND THE INTENSE EFFORTS BY THE AMEMBASSIES IN THE REGION FOR
THEIR EFFORTS WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THE RELEASE OF THE CISCO II.
WE WOULD WISH, HOWEVER, THAT UNLIKE THE CASE OF THE DEBRIEFING OF
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STRICKLAND AND BOWIDOWICZ, THAT ATTENTION BE FOCUSED IN THE

CAMPBELL/HARRELL DEBRIEFING ON THE SECURITY OF THE 59 AMERICANS REMAINING IN ASMARA.

2. OIC NAVCOMMUNT WILL BE SUBMITTING THROUGH U.S. NAVY CHANNELS A LIST OF SPECIFIC QUESTIONS WHICH WILL REQUIRE ANSWERS TO ENHANCE SECURITY MEASURES AT KAGNEW. WE WOULD FURTHER HOPE THAT THE DEBRIEFING WOULD BE FORWARDED IN A TIMELY MANNER TO THE CONGEN AND ALL OTHER AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE SECURITY IN ASMARA.

THERE IS A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE CONDUCT AND LOYALTY OF THE ETHIOPIAN NATIONALS TAKEN HOSTAGE WITH CAMPBELL AND HARRELL. AS WAS THE CASE WITH STRICKLAND AND BOWIDOWICZ, THE LOCAL NATIONALS MAY SURFACE IN SUDAN (OR POSSIBLY EVEN IN ASMARA) AND REQUEST TO BE EITHER REHIRED OR HIRED BY THE USG OR U.S. FIRMS IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. THERE MAY BE REASON TO BELIEVE, AS PAST EXPERIENCE HAS INDICATED, THAT SOME LOCAL EMPLOYEES ARE IN COLLUSION WITH THE INSURGENTS.

3. THE CONGEN OBVIOUSLY HAS A CONCERN OF INSURGENT ATTITUDES RE THOSE AMERICANS REMAINING IN ASMARA EITHER WITH KAGNEW, THE CONGEN OR IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE AN IDEA OF INSURGENT CAPABILITIES IN TERMS OF WEAPONS SO THAT COUNTERMEASURES MAY BE UNDERTAKEN. WE CANNOT OVER-EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF TIMELINESS IN THE DISSEMINATION OF THIS VITAL INFORMATION.
WAUCHOPE

UNQUOTE SISCO

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